



May 1, 2017

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bobby Rush
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush:

The Modesto Irrigation District (MID) and the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) of California write to express their appreciation for holding the May 3, legislative hearing on the "*Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017*" discussion draft. MID and TID strongly support efforts by the Subcommittee to modernize and improve the hydropower licensing and relicensing process, as we are eight years and over \$25 million into relicensing the 203 megawatt Don Pedro Hydropower Project on the Tuolumne River in the Central Valley of California.

MID and TID are currently working with project partners, resource agencies, Tribes, and conservation groups to move forward with an agreement to renew the Don Pedro hydropower license, which expired on April 30, 2016. The Districts started the process of relicensing in 2009, and to date we have conducted over 38 studies and a suite of models to inform the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and relicensing participants on the conditions of the reservoir and the Tuolumne River. Because MID and TID are public agencies, the costs associated with the relicensing process and meeting any additional conditions imposed by a new license, will be borne by the communities we serve.

MID and TID commend the Subcommittee for holding this hearing. We support your efforts to promote hydropower as a renewable and economic resource, as well as efforts to streamline the process to allow applicants to move through the licensing/relicensing process in a more timely, efficient, and affordable manner.

We are hopeful the members of this Subcommittee will find a way to move forward with a balanced, bipartisan bill that will remove regulatory inefficiencies and impediments to licensing and relicensing of clean and reliable hydropower generation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory E Salyer".

Greg Salyer
General Manager
Modesto Irrigation District

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Casey Hashimoto".

Casey Hashimoto
General Manager
Turlock Irrigation District